

Man Leaves His Footprints

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LEM Blasts Safely Off Moon and Into Orbit

SPACE CENTER (UPI)—Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. safely blasted off from the moon's surface today to begin their voyage home from man's first conquest of an alien world.

"Eagle is in safe orbit," Armstrong reported 7½ minutes after their moonship booted the lunar dust with its rocket engine and roared up from the Sea of Tranquility.

The two American astronauts spent 21 hours walking, exploring and collecting 49 pounds of priceless lunar rocks.

"Beautiful...beautiful," Aldrin said, watching the spacecraft skim at more than 1,000 mph over the craters and boulders around the flat landing field.

Ahead they faced a perilous 3 1/2-hour rendezvous maneuver to rejoin Michael Collins in the Apollo 11 command ship 70 miles above the moon.

They plan to leave lunar orbit at 12:53 a.m. Tuesday, homeward bound.

Behind them left the moon, the earth and history forever changed.

At 1:54 p.m. EDT, Eagle's ascent engine roared to life and for the first time without benefit of thousands of ground technicians working a few miles away, men launched themselves toward an orbit.

At 2:02 p.m. came the word they had made it. One of the most cliff-hanging aspects of their mission was a success.

"Very smooth," Aldrin reported.

Then came a succession of "beautifuls" from the two pilots. The astronauts coolly read off the velocity change they needed to achieve orbit.

"Shutdown," Armstrong radioed, his ascent engine off.

Apollo's Eagle was in an orbit ranging from about 11 to 32 miles high.

Russia's Luna 15, which had been mysteriously shadowing

Apollo 11 in lunar orbit since Thursday, apparently landed on the moon two hours before Eagle took off.

But it reportedly hit with such a speed as to preclude its speculated objective of scooping up some lunar dirt and racing the Americans back to earth with it.

Collins in the Columbia command module was 300 miles away when Eagle soared into orbit. The lunar module immediately prepared for a complicated series of maneuvers to rendezvous and dock with his ship.

"The whole world is proud of you," ground communicator Ron Evans told the Eagle's lunar pioneers.

President Nixon, who talked to the astronauts on the moon Sunday night, said "good news" when told of the successful launch and orbit.

Both spacemen were taciturn and calm on the liftoff in comparison to the enthusiastic descriptions of the lunar landscape they gave on the descent to Tranquility Base Sunday.

Armstrong's heart rate reached 90 beats per minute and Aldrin, who normally has a lower heart rate, soared to 120. Both quickly dropped down to the 80s after orbit was achieved.

Before they left, Aldrin radioed earth dwellers a fascinating description of Tranquility Base and the dreamlike terrain surrounding it.

"We are landed in a relatively smooth crater field with elongated secondary crater fields. Most of them have rims but there are a few which do not have discernible rims.

"They are covered by very fine sand or silt. There is a wide variety of rocks, all shapes, sizes and textures, rounded and angular. We've seen what looked like a plain of basalt."

"We are in a boulder field where the boulders range up to two feet but a few are larger than that—some on the surface,

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LUNAR BLASTOFF—This is an artist's view of the lunar module at the point of blastoff this morning at 10:51 a.m. Pacific time. The lower stage carrying the descent

rocket that placed the astronauts on the moon surface was left behind.

Local Reaction to Apollo Typical, 'It's Wonderful'

By HELEN BLACK
Staff Writer

There were men eating on the moon this morning. Talking about work, weather and things back home.

There wasn't much choice on the menu for breakfast

conversation this morning in Everett.

Between quick interruptions for refills or "Make mine sunnyside up," the talk topic was all out of this world.

Apollo 11 had landed on

the moon last night with two Americans aboard. And there weren't any down-on-earth Americans that hadn't heard about the happening.

"Pretty good feeling to have men up there," Bill R. Greenleigh, Everett, was telling his friends.

"When I skin dive, I get that spooky feeling that I am some place no human has been before. Things are odd shaped. And the sounds! Imagine how those guys must have felt. Pretty good!"

Frank James from Portland rested against the window in the warmth of the early morning sun. It was a good time for thinking and he had a lot of thinking to do.

"Unbelievable," he mumbled. Then he thought of the possibilities of U.S. base operations up there and he thought of the possibility that he might have to go.

"But I still can't get over someone else being there," he said.

Between bites of French toast, a truck driver said he was pleased with his regular route and didn't plan to switch to the moon. Not even for a vacation.

"Heck of a long way to go for the view!" he commented.

A woman worker stopping for a bite of breakfast had been thrilled with the moon walk.

"For a moment I stopped inside," she said. "Nothing inside me worked."

She wished her employer would have thought the space walk was important enough not to work today!

"I am happy now. Pleased and proud," said her friend.

"But I will be happier, more pleased and more proud when they come back home."

Mrs. Harry E. Morcer, a resident of Bethany Home, Everett, didn't think she would ever see a moon walk. But she did!

Would she take a walk up there?

"Sure," she smiled without hesitation. "I'll try anything."

Another nursing home resident said she was more sure than ever before that there is a God.

"He's been taking care of us down here for a long time," she said. "Now he's taking care of those two up there."

Gladys Grist of Everett said the landing on the moon, the walk, the pictures, the communication between earth and the moon—all were "wonderful."

"Wonderful," was also the reactions of Virgil L. Davis of Snohomish. But would he do it?

His answer was a fast and easy, "No."

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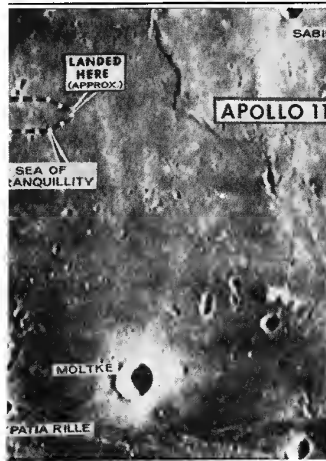
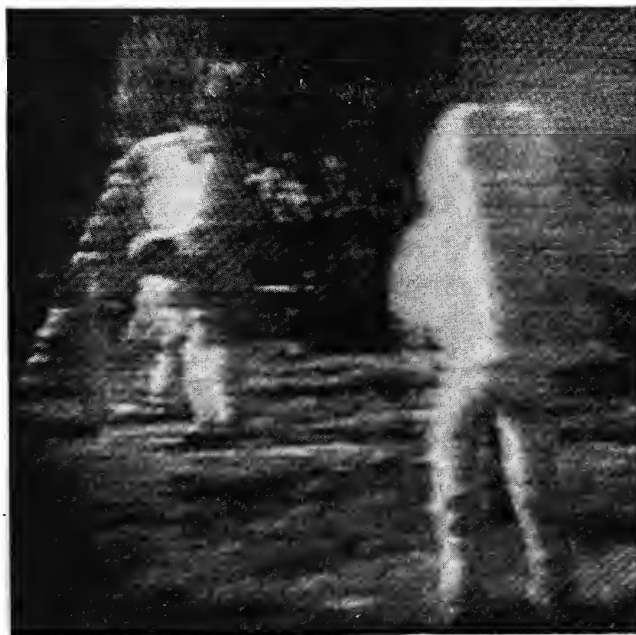


Chart spots site of Apollo 11 landing on the Moon.



MOON WALKERS — Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin go about their chores of collecting soil and rock samples from the lunar surface after successfully landing there at 1:17 p.m. Sunday. The Moon walk came earlier than programmed but the astronauts re-

quired more time to dress than they had expected when the pair requested to leave the module early. More pictures on pages 2, 3 and 4. (Photos by Bill Hill and Jim Leo from TV tube)